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BULGARIAN REACTION TO THE WAR IN VIETNAM

- IN BULGARIA TODAY THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM BY THE "MAN ON THE STREET." THE CONFLICT IS ALSO A FREQUENT TOPIC OF CONVERSATION AMONG A LARGE NUMBER OF WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS SUCH AS PAVEL VEZHNOV AND PETUR NEZNAKOMOV OF STURSHEL, LUDMI'L STOYANOV, THE POET LAMAR, EMIL MANOV AND ORLIN VASILEV.
 - THERE IS A STRONG GENERAL FEELING AGAINST THE VIETCONG TET OFFENSIVE AS STUPID BLOOD-LETTING WHICH KILLED MANY PEOPLE AND ACHIEVED NO CONCRETE RESULTS FOR NORTH VIETNAM.

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BULGARIA/VIETNAM

LATE MARCH 1968

FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD

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SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD (classification) (dissem controls)

ALTHOUGH IN FACT THE BULGARIAN MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTH VIETNAM WAR EFFORT IS NOT LARGE, MANY BULGARIANS THINK IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT SEVERE PRICE INCREASES. THEY BELIEVE THAT BULGARIA HAS NO BUSINESS BEING INVOLVED IN THIS WAR AND THAT THE AMERICANS ARE JUSTIFIED IN DEFENDING SOUTH VIETNAM AGAINST AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH. THEY ACCEPT THE PREMISE THAT SOUTH VIETNAM IS A CLIENT STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEY DO NOT MORALIZE ABOUT IT. BULGARIA IS ESSENTIALLY A LAND OF PEASANTS AND MOST OF THESE PEOPLE TRANSLATE A STRONG SENSE OF VALUE OF LAND INTO SIMPLE TERMS OF "DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY." THUS, THE AMERICANS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO FIGHT TO HOLD THE LAND AGAINST INCURSIONS GROM THE NORTH.

BULGARIAN WRITERS DO NOT ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF "WAR OF LIBERATION"

AND ONLY WISH FOR THE WAR IN VIETNAM TO BE FINISHED. THEY DO

NOT THINK NORTH VIETNAM WILL WIN AND THEY SEE A LONG FRUITLESS

STRUGGLE AHEAD. ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY CONNECTED WITH THE

VIETNAMESE WAR, THE MORALE OF NEW ARMY CONSCRIPTS IS POOR AND IN

THE PAST THREE MONTHS NEW HARSH DISCIPLINARY MEASURES HAVE BEEN

PUT INTO EFFECT TO QUELL THE RESTLESSNESS AND INCIPIENT HOOLI—

GANISM IN THE BARRACKS.

HOWEVER, THAT 3 3(h)(2)

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